GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3260
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2003
OPERATION OF RADIO CITY
RAM VILAS PASWAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the Radio city operated and managed by Rupert Murdoch promoted Star TV Group is currently negotiating with Malaysia`s Measat to acquire two radio stations in Kolkata;

(b) if so, the reasons for initially giving the licences to front Indian companies and later allowing them to transfer their stake to the Star TV group owned by Murdoch whose loyalty to the country has remained questionable; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD)

(a) The Government has no information on the matter.

(b) & (c) M/s MBPL had applied for licence and as they fulfilled the eligibility criteria,they were permitted to participate in the auction and on being successful bidders, licences were given for operating FM stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai,Delhi, Nagpur & Patna. The company has since operationalised stations at Bangalore, Lucknow, Mumbai & Delhi. This Ministry has received complaints regarding M/s Music Broadcast Pvt Ltd being indirectly promoted by the Star TV Group, owned by Mr. Rupert Murdoch. These issues are being examined, in consultation with Department of Company Affairs and Ministry of Law.